F. E. Roach

PACIFIC FRUIT EXPRESS COMPANY

February News Letter

San Francisco, February 26, 1957

ALL P.F.E. EMPLOYEES:

P.F.E. Loadings

	1957			1956		
	PFE Cars	Foreigns	Total	PFE Cars	Foreigns	Total
January	27,941	1,092	29,033	29.737	1,581	31,318

Car Situation

Heavy California and Arizona loading has reduced on-line car supplies to low level, necessitating use of foreign cars developing from unloads. Assistance to Eastern foreign railroads has been discontinued and all concerned are expediting return of PFE cars to contract lines.

Crop Conditions

Along Southern Pacific:

In Oregon, Klamath potatoes are moving to California markets in light volume due to increased use of trucks. Medford pears will continue from storages in normal seasonal volume, as will frozen foods, and miscellaneous commodities from Willamette Valley.

In Northern California canned goods and frozen food movements are heavy and this will continue until March 4 tax day, after which shipments will level off to normal. Porterville citrus is over the peak of production and shipments will decline gradually. There is a consistent movement of winter vegetables from East Bay points and from Salinas Valley.

In Southwest District heavy supplies of Imperial Valley lettuce have been moving and will continue into March. Yuma spring lettuce crop is getting under way but will not reach volume until March 1. Tomatoes, peas and peppers from West Coast of Mexico are moving consistently through Nogales. With exception of few rainy days, weather in Mexico producing areas has been favorable.

T&NO: Vegetable shipping from Eagle Pass-Uvalde section has passed peak but should continue at rate of 15 to 20 daily through the month. In Rio Grande Valley shipments consisting principally of carrots continue in good volume and average 40 to 50 daily. Movement of Mexican cantaloupes has commenced through Laredo but will not be heavy until March.

Along Union Pacific:

Northwest District: Apple and pear shipments will continue below seasonal normal due to light supplies. Canned goods, beer, and frozen food loading is moving consistently.

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Idaho: Movement of the large potato storage is running below expectations. Onions have been moving in good volume and supplies may be exhausted earlier than anticipated.

Eastern District: Shipments of meat, PHP, canned goods, and miscellaneous will continue at normal rate. Nebraska and Wyoming potatoes are moving, mostly in trucks with only a car or two daily loading by rail.

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Diversions Handled

	1956	1955
Total diversions handled	784,153	839,102
Number failures	130	180
Number diversions handled per failure	6,032	4,662

This improvement in our performance is gratifying and reflects increased effort on part of our diversion forces, which is much appreciated.

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Perishables and semi-perishables loaded on PFE contract lines during 1956 compared with 1955:

	1956	1955	Inc.	Dec.
Apples	5,738	6,834		1,096
Bananas	13,938	13,407	531	
Cantaloupes	25,339	26,451		1,112
Carrots	12,703	12,546	157	
Cauliflower	4,973	5,513		540
Celery	16,980	15,315	1,665	
Citrus	31,871	29,138	2,733	
Tree Fruit	3,669	4,352		683
Grapes	15,645	16,997		1,352
Lettuce	58,258	62,936		4,678
Onions	9,451	11,288		1,837
Peaches	2,282	3,937		1,655
Pears	12,380	10,046	2,334	
Green Peas	753	789		36
Plums	3,271	2,727	544	
Potatoes	72,114	73,895		1,781
Other Vegetables	16,243	15,692	551	
Tomatoes	9,612	10,858		1,246
Frozen Foods	13,603	10,871	2,732	
Beverages	2,877	3,471		594
Canned goods	26,449	24,050	2,399	
Watermelons	3,118	3,387		269
Meat and P.H.P.	7,631	8,339		708
Other miscellaneous	16,591	20,127		3,536
Total	385,489	392,966		7,477

K. V. Plummer

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Eastern District: Shipments of meat, PHP, canned goods, and miscellaneous will continue at normal rate. Nebraska and Wyoming potatoes are moving, mostly in trucks with only a car or two daily loading by rail.

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Diversions Handled

	1956	1951
Total diversions handled	784,153	839,102
Number claims	130	150
Number diversions handled per failure	6,032	4,662

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Apples	5,738	6,834		1,096
Bananas	13,938	13,407	531	
Cantaloupes	23,339	26,491		1,112
Carrots	12,703	12,546	157	
Cauliflower	4,973	5,513		540
Celery	16,950	15,315	1,635	
Citrus	31,871	29,138	2,733	
Tree Fruit	3,669	4,252		583
Grapes	15,164	16,897		1,352
Lettuce	38,258	32,938	4,678	
Onions	9,451	11,288		1,837
Peaches	5,282	3,927	1,655	
Pears	12,380	10,046	2,334	
Green Peas	753	789		36
Plums	3,271	2,727	544	
Potatoes	72,114	73,805		1,691
Other Vegetables	16,242	15,692	551	
Tomatoes	9,612	10,858		1,246
Frozen Foods	13,603	10,871	2,732	
Beverages	2,877	3,471		594
Canned Goods	26,149	24,050	2,099	
Watermelons	3,112	3,387		275
Meat and P.H.P.	7,611	6,739	872	
Other miscellaneous	16,291	20,127		3,836
Total	385,486	392,906		7,420

K. V. Plummer